

“Serving Those Who Served”

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www.dva.wa.gov

Vol. 5 Issue 20

FALL 2004

Specialized Veteran and Military License Plate Being Pursued

WDVA is seeking signatures to support the issuance of a series of specialized license plates displaying the emblems of each branch of military service.

Due to changes in the way the State Legislature and Department of Licensing handle specialized plate requests, 2000 signatures of support for each branch of service, are needed to present the request to the 2005 Legislature.

Proceeds from the Veteran and Military License Plate will be used to provide programs and services for homeless veterans, memorials honoring veterans and possibly the maintenance of a future state veteran's cemetery.

The Veteran and Military License Plate will cost \$40 with an annual renewal fee of \$30.

For each plate sold or renewed, \$28 will be used to serve and honor veterans. (The funds will not be used to replace any current funding received by WDVA.)

Honorably discharged veterans, active duty military personnel, or reserves will be eligible to purchase a Veteran and Military License Plate.

If you are interested in purchasing a specialized Veterans Military License Plate, fill out the signature box on page 12 and mail it in by November 30, 2004.

Informational posters and full page signature sheets are available by calling 1-800-562-0132 or downloading one from the internet at www.dva.wa.gov/specialty_military_license_plate.asp. Click on signature sheet.

See signature box on page 12

WDVA Receives Grants to Assist Homeless and Native American Veterans

Emphasis on helping homeless veterans get and retain jobs

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has received notice from the federal Department of Labor – Veterans Employment and Training Services (USDOL) – that a \$300,000 annual grant extension for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) has been approved beginning July 1, 2004.

The services provided under this program are directed toward increasing the employability of homeless veterans through training or arranging for the provisions of services which will enable them to work, matching homeless veterans with potential employers and creating linkages to appropriate services

HVRP grant funds are awarded competitively and reviewed annually to

ensure goals agreed upon by the grantee and USDOL are met.

“WDVA's ability to recognize the complex problems that face homeless veterans has contributed greatly to forming the partnerships and coordination between local, state and federal veterans' services programs needed for the success of the project,” said WDVA director John M. King.

“Once again the dedicated and knowledgeable employees at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs have met our stated goals to help homeless veterans, allowing us to continue these critical programs.”

A second \$96,268 grant was also awarded to provide training and employment services for Washington State's Native American veterans. The program will focus on providing tools, training and transportation to help veterans find and keep jobs. The grant is renewable for a second year if WDVA meets its job placement goals.

PLATE SAMPLE



What's Inside...

<i>WDVA Receives Grants</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>Director's Message</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Alvarado Selected as NASVH President</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>In Focus - AAPTSD</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>In the Spotlight</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>WA Veterans Homes Highlights</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>DAV Vans Ready to Help Veterans</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Veterans Day Events</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>National Notes</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Hats Off</i>	<i>Page 12</i>

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Director's Message

Veteran Voices

Veteran Voices is published for Washington state veterans and their family members, WDVA employees and Veterans Home residents.

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Call 1-877-VETS-R-US
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To obtain this publication in an alternative format call (360) 725-2169.



John M. King
WDVA Director

The past few months have reinforced to me the value of teamwork, the importance of partnerships and the lessons we can learn if we are attentive. The scope of our work with veterans is without boundaries and we are joining forces with local governments, agencies and even other states to ensure the right services, at the right time, are received by our worthy veterans.

Within our state, agencies are partnering to ensure taxpayers aren't shouldering the burden of what is a national debt to veterans. WDVA and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) are actively identifying and assisting veterans and their spouses or widows in community nursing homes in applying for federal VA benefits. By receiving federal VA compensation, Medicaid dollars are saved and can be spent on others in the state.

WDVA and the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) are also

teaming up with the Military Department to identify soldiers returning from deployments. After they've demobilized and reunited with their families, we will continue our outreach and directly contact over 3,000 National Guard and Reserve soldiers who will come home in the next few months. This personal letter of thanks and appreciation will invite them to call a service officer and access VA entitlements.

Other states are now duplicating programs developed through Washington's partnerships. An example is found in a Fairbanks, AK Daily News-Miner article on

"Within our state, agencies are partnering to ensure taxpayers aren't shouldering the burden of what is a national debt to veterans."

August 8, 2004. The article begins with the plight of a veteran caught in the unforgiving cycle of alcoholism, homelessness and spiraling depression and concludes with an innovative program designed to help veterans break the cycle through intensive treatment and counseling. The Alaska program is based in-part on the immensely successful Veterans Incarcerated Project (VIP) - a partnership between King County and WDVA. The VIP has an average recidivism (re-offending) rate of less than 16% - compared to a county rate of more than 55% - saving

taxpayer dollars typically spent on jail time. This is a perfect example of building on the lessons of others, and reinforces the work we do to cultivate partnerships with our peers across the nation. The ultimate accomplishment in our work is improving the quality of life for veterans - a true indication that we are *"Serving Those Who Served"*.

The importance of partnerships is being demonstrated through the work of WDVA's Assistant Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos. One of Alfie's duties is to oversee operations at each of our three State Veterans Homes. A long-time member of the National Association of State Veterans Homes, Alfie was elected the organization's first woman president in July. As President of NASVH, Alfie will partner with other states, closely monitoring their successes, evaluating their weaknesses, and bringing back to Washington's veterans homes and communities innovative programs and services that will enhance the quality of life for our veterans. Such innovations are significantly more important now as thousands of veterans reach retirement and beyond and stretch our long-term care system to capacity.

Each of the examples above is – or will be – successful through the collaboration and cooperation of multiple providers, agencies, governments. There are many organizations dedicated to serving those who served – imagine what can be achieved as we build on these partnerships and establish more.

VLC Gearing Up for 2005 Legislative Session

If you are a member of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), chances are you have a representative appointed to the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC). The VLC has been incorporated since 1986 and operates independently of any other organization. The mission of the VLC is to maintain knowledge of bills, sponsor bills, attend legislative hearings, support Veterans Legislative coalition goals, inform veteran service organizations and request support.

VLC meetings provide a forum to address veteran concerns and bring together representatives from the VSO's. Members work together to present various causes, positions and issues of veterans and their family members to the Washington State Legislature.

During the Washington State Legislative Session, the VLC meets every Friday in Olympia. Bills are reviewed and the VLC determines whether the issue should be acted upon or monitored. In 2005, property tax relief for widows of veterans will be a top priority. The VLC will also work toward property tax relief for disabled veterans by excluding VA compensation and pension from combined disposable income, allowing many to qualify for the property tax exemption for seniors and persons with disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more, talk to your VSO about who your representative is contact them to find out how they participate in the VLC or contact VLC Chairman Dan Gogerty at (360) 275-6957.

Veteran Voices Now Available By E-mail!

Readership of the **Veteran Voices** is growing dramatically, which means more of the 670,000 veterans in the state of Washington are becoming **Veterans Serving and Helping Veterans**.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail (and receive the news two to three weeks sooner), contact us at miriam@dva.wa.gov or colleen@dva.wa.gov.

WDVA's Assistant Director to Hold National Position

The National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) has elected Lourdes (Alfie) Alvarado-Ramos as their incoming 2004-2005 president.

This will be the first time in the 52-year history of the association that a woman will hold the position.

Alvarado-Ramos, the Assistant Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, is responsible for administering statewide service to Washington's more than 670,000 veterans. She previously served as superintendent of two of Washington State's Veterans Homes in Orting and Retsil.

Alvarado-Ramos served 22 years in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1993 as the Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center.



NASVH membership is made up of the administrators and staff representing state-operated veterans homes throughout the U.S. Their mission is to insure every eligible veteran of the armed forces of the United States of America receives the benefits, services, long-term health care and respect earned by their service and sacrifice, and to ensure the level of care and services provided by state veterans homes meets or exceeds the highest standards available.

"NASVH is fortunate to be receiving the leadership of Alfie Alvarado-Ramos," said John M. King, WDVA director. "The veterans in Washington State benefit greatly due to her service and dedication, and I have every confidence that she will bring the same level of caring to the rest of the countries veterans."

Alvarado-Ramos was sworn in at the association's annual convention in Denver, CO on July 28, and will serve a one-year term as NASVH's president, beginning Oct. 1, 2004.

VAAC Seeks Nominations for Outstanding Service to Veterans

On behalf of the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, we are pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for 2004 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards. The Outstanding Service to Veterans categories are:

- ◆ Outstanding Veteran Volunteer
- ◆ Outstanding Service Officer
- ◆ Outstanding Volunteer Service Officer
- ◆ Outstanding Employee
- ◆ Outstanding Male Non-Veteran
- ◆ Outstanding Female Non-Veteran
- ◆ Outstanding Youth Group

This is an equal opportunity award open to all who meet the criteria. Nominations may be submitted by any person, organization, or institution.

If you would like to nominate someone, please visit our website at www.dva.wa.gov or call 1-800-562-0132 to request a nomination form. **Nominations are due by October 15, 2004.**

Award winners will be honored at the Auburn Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 6th.

VAAC Receives New Member

Governor Gary Locke recently appointed Phil Ruhmshottel, past State Commandant of the Marine Corps League, to serve a four year term on his Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC).

In addition, Governor Locke re-appointed the following committee members for another four years: Richard Marin – Member at Large and Richard Whipple – Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VAAC – under the leadership of Chairman Richard Marin – is composed of 17 members and advises the Governor and the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs on issues and programs concerning veterans.

Open to the public, the next bimonthly meeting will be held November 18, 2004, at Retsil. For additional information on meeting location and time, contact Cyndee Baugh at 360-725-2153 or cyndeeb@dva.wa.gov



Are You Registered to VOTE ?

Secretary of State Sam Reed Urges You to Register to Vote

To register to vote in the state of Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington state
- At least 18 years old by election day

In the state of Washington, you do not have to register by political party or declare political party membership to vote in the state's general election.

If you meet the above criteria you can register by completing and mailing in a voter registration form available on the web at www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register_mail.aspx or by calling (360) 902-4151.

Registration deadlines:

In general, you must register at least 30 days in advance of an election to be eligible to vote in that election. It is especially important to remember this deadline if you are registering by mail or by using the downloadable form, your application must be postmarked by the 30-day cutoff or it will not become effective until after the election.

If you miss the 30-day deadline, you can still sign up in time for the election, but you must register in person at your county elections department no later than 15 days before the election. Contact your county auditor or elections department for assistance and information.

VAAC and Veterans Community Endure Loss

Lauren Schwisow, newly appointed to the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Board (VAAC), passed away July 29, 2004, at the age of 81.

An Army Air Corps veteran of WWII, he was shot down while on a bombing raid in Austria, captured, and spent the remainder of the war in Stalag Luft I in Germany.

After the war, he spent 40 years as a teacher, coach, and school administrator, serving 2 districts in Scottsbluff, NE and Hinsdale, IL. Upon retirement, the Schwisows moved to Olympia in 1987.

In addition to being a past Department of WA Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, past and current commander of the Christmastown Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and a member of the Veterans Legislative Coalition, he also found time to serve as a mentor of Work First students at South Puget Sound Community College.

Lauren will be deeply missed by the Veterans community.



AAPTSDA offers Hope to Veterans

The African American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Association was established in 1999 as a non-profit, 501C veterans service organization to assist African American and other minority veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The three executive staff members, all retired U.S. Army veterans, collectively served more than 75 years active duty, covering 1950 through the mid 80's, and each served two tours of duty in Vietnam.

All three attend the same PTSD sessions every Tuesday at American Lake, where they have gone each week since 1993.

Sidney Lee, a certified PTSD Clinician, is president of the group. After studies in the 1990's revealed African American and other minority veterans needed advocacy, Lee sold his business and worked out of his garage for almost three years as he learned the intricacies of the Federal VA claim process, and submitted paperwork through a number of Veterans Service Organizations.

Donald Curtis, vice-president of the group, spent one year training at the Disabled American Veterans before he joined the staff in 2002. Curtis says he has had to work hard to overcome the bitterness he carries from his years in the military, brought about by what he terms "fighting two wars, one in Vietnam and the other, prejudice."

And, Willie Griffin, at the age of 72, is treasurer. Griffin, besides serving two tours in Vietnam, is also a Korean War Veteran. His reason for still serving veterans is the satisfaction of helping bring veterans from "garbage cans to supermarkets and from cardboard boxes to apartments."

Erin Brown, needing assistance in filing a claim after receiving a medical discharge in 2003, was so impressed with the way she was treated during the claims process, she became a volunteer for the group. Brown's husband is active duty military serving in Korea and her father, a 27 year veteran, is on active duty in Iraq.

Lois Brown, Erin's mother, started volunteering and training as a service officer for the AAPTSDA after seeing the positive results of her daughter's claim, and hopes to educate other active duty military wives about benefits available, both now and after leaving the military.

Although the group was formed to work with African Americans, they say they are getting more and more calls and referrals from all veterans, especially women.



AAPTSDA Staff (L-R) Galen Hickok, Willie Griffin, Lois Brown, Sidney Lee, Erin Brown, Donald Curtis.

Griffin's hope for the future of PTSD is that doctors and scientists progress in the study of the mind to the point where "without medication, those suffering from PTSD can be made whole again."

AAPTSDA Contact Information:

12208 Pacific Hwy SE, Suite 1
Lakewood WA 98499
253-589-0766
10:00 am – 4:00 pm – Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Tues

915 2nd Ave Rm 1062B
Seattle WA
206-220-4506

American Lake VA Hospital
253-583-1097

e-mail: tacomaptsd@earthlink.net
website: www.aaptsdassn.com

Korean Defense Service Medal Awarded By Branch of Service

In the Spring/Summer 2004 issue of Veteran Voices, page 10 included information about the Korean Defense Service Medal being available. For more information on acquiring the medal, visit the Department of Defense website <http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/>.

Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) and ribbon for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin.

Mailing addresses and telephone numbers for each of the military departments Awards and Decorations Office:

U.S. Total Army Personnel Command
Awards and Decorations Office
ATTN: TAPC-PD-PA
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22302-0471
Telephone: 703-325-8700

Chief of Naval Operations
Awards and Special Projects Branch
CODE: NO9B33
2000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D453
Washington, DC 20350-2000
Telephone: 703-325-1770

Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps
Awards and Decorations Office
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MMA)
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22314-5103
Telephone: 703-784-9342

U.S. Department of the Air Force
Headquarters, Air Force Personnel Center
ATTN: DPPPRA
500 C Street West, Suite 12
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714
Telephone: 210-565-2516

In The Spotlight

"Serving Those Who Have Served" takes on new meaning when the service provider and recipient share a similar background. At the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of employees who are veterans ranks high, providing a personal connection with clients not always achieved in other agencies.

In an effort to introduce these dedicated employees, WDVA will highlight a different veteran/employee each issue.

At a Seattle VA Regional Office awards ceremony, on June 4, 2004, Willie Slusarski, a WDVA Veterans Benefits Specialist II working in the WDVA Seattle Veterans Service Office, received the federal VA's "Making A Difference" Award. This Award is normally presented to Federal VA employees who are recognized as having "gone the extra mile" to make a positive difference in the lives of veterans and their families.



Willie Slusarski (R) accepts his award from Frank Idzikowski (center), and Frank Pierce of the VA Regional Office.

The "Making A Difference" Award was presented to Slusarski because of his efforts to assist a veteran who had been struggling unsuccessfully for several years to get an extremely complex disability claim granted by the VA.

His assistance resulted in an appropriate increase of the veteran's rating to 100%, retroactive benefits going back 10 years and educational benefits for the veteran's wife and children. In gratitude for this tireless assistance on his behalf, the veteran wrote a letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, stating his complete satisfaction with the VA Rating Decision, and especially his appreciation of Slusarski's professional assistance as a Service Officer.

Slusarski spent 25 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in August 1996, at the rank of Lieutenant. His military career took him through 13 years as a torpedo man on three different submarines. His next 12 years were divided between three ships, traveling the world and two shore tours in Naples and Bremerton.



Willie with his wife and CO when he was promoted to LT in 1984.

While in Naples, Slusarski met and married his wife Leslie, who was serving at the time as a Hospital Corpsman.

After his retirement, they decided to retire in the Puget Sound area, where he enlisted at Olympic College. In December 1996, Slusarski became a workstudy with the Bremerton WDVA office, became a permanent Veterans Benefits Assistant and is now located in the Seattle WDVA service office in the Federal VA building.

The Slusarskis' have three daughters and a grandson who just turned two.

State VA Service Officers Accredited by VFW and American Legion

Service to Veterans enhanced by partnership

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Service Officers have again raised the bar for providing quality service to our state's veterans.

On June 25, leaders from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) presented four staff members with accreditation certificates from the National VFW. Frosty Hulsey, VFW State Commander; Ed Rasmussen, VFW State Chairman of the Veterans Services Committee, and Stephen Stetson, VFW State Surgeon, traveled to Olympia to personally present the certificates to Alex Deluao, Barbara Logan, Andrew Clark and Steven Gill. The American Legion also extended accreditation to these staff service officers.

Accreditation from the VFW and American Legion will allow WDVA employees to quickly access claims information through the Benefits Delivery Network held by these Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs). This will allow WDVA to submit claims for long-term care Medicaid clients residing in private nursing facilities throughout the state as part of the WDVA/ DSHS Medicaid project.

In addition, the VFW and American Legion can refer veterans to the WDVA Olympia Service Center, while retaining their Power of Attorney.

"This partnership will expand the capacities of all parties, and ensure our veteran client base receives the highest level of quality claims services available, in a seamless fashion," said Jim Rising WDVA Program Manager.

To contact a WDVA Service Officer, call: 1-800-562-2308 or 1-877-249-0516.



(L to R) Ed Rasmussen, VFW State Chairman Vets Services Committee; John Lee; Barb Logan; Alex Deluao; Steven Gill; Frosty Hulsey, VFW State Commander; Andrew Clark; and Stephen Stetson, VFW State Surgeon.

Washington State Veterans Homes

Spokane gets new Veteran Benefits Specialist



Chief Master Sergeant Marvin L. King, USN (Ret), began working at the Spokane Veterans Home as the Veterans Benefit Specialist on August 2nd.

King was raised in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Following high school graduation in 1967 he attended the University of North Dakota before enlisting in the U S Navy in 1968. As a Communications Technician (CT), he attended the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, California prior to serving overseas tours in Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1971 and he remained in the Naval Reserve until 1977. In 1979, King joined the Washington Air National Guard until he retired May 1, 2003.

In his civilian life, King has been employed by the U S Department of Veterans Affairs since 1974. Most recently he was the Lead Field Examiner for the Seattle VA Regional Office, working out of the VA Medical Center in Spokane, WA.

Marv King is a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a BA in History and Government.



Many of you may not be aware, but the Spokane Veterans Home does not have an on-site kitchen. Meals are outsourced from Deaconess Medical Center through a contract with Aramark, and are delivered three times a day in a "bulk" supply to be served to our residents.

No food is prepped on site except for simple things, like toast and sandwiches.

When the Home was built in 1987, a "shell" was built for a kitchen, but when the Home was owned by Empire Health Services, they felt they could provide that service from an off-site location and save on expenditures. Thus, this site has never had an operational kitchen.

For the past two years, WDVA has been working with the Federal VA and the Washington State Legislature to provide funding for a full service kitchen for the home.

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature granted authority to WDVA to pursue a Certificate of Participation with the federal VA.

In 2004, WDVA received notice from the federal VA agreeing to participate by providing a grant to cover 65% of the cost of the project.

The Spokane Architecture firm of ALSC has been hired to design our new kitchen, and the first sets of plans were sent to the Federal VA on July 15th, 2004, for approval.

If all goes as planned, the project will start sometime in October or November of 2004 and will be completed before the end of the biennium.

The new kitchen and expanded dining space will allow more options of food choices, dining times and ability for residents to dine with their family members. This will increase the quality of life for all who live here and will make our environment more home-like.

The residents and staff are anxiously awaiting the smells of "home cooking!"



Current preparation kitchen.

Volunteers at Veterans Home Keep Romeo the Cat Healthy

Romeo, the cat that lives in Building 9 at Retsil, is getting older, and just like with humans, his health is not as good as it was when he was younger.

Also, just like his human friends at the home, he now requires some help, by way of maintenance medication, to continue being a companion to the residents and staff.

But, when word was received by the Home's volunteer groups that the budget couldn't provide Romeo with that type of care, Linda Boyle, a Naval Station Puget Sound Volunteer, decided Romeo deserved to live his full nine lives.

So, she rolled up her sleeves and planned a "Spaghetti Feed for Romeo" fundraiser and was able to raise \$500 to pay for the medication.

Boyle took it a major step further when she researched and located a less expensive vendor to provide the medication, which will allow Romeo to stay healthy and happy into his golden years.

Thank you to all the volunteers at our homes, and from Romeo to all the Naval Station Puget Sound staff, "Meow"!



(left to right) Presenting Catherine Shaw, Act. Dir. (far right) with the check for \$500 are Toni Cloud, Linda Boyer with Romeo and Diana Diehl.

Resident Spouses Address Life-changing Issues

For more than a year, spouses of residents at the Spokane Veterans Home have been getting together to talk and share their feelings associated with having their spouse in the Spokane Veterans Home.

The group is coordinated by a Spokane Veterans Home social worker and meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. Meetings vary in duration, lasting for an hour to an hour and a half, and an average of three to eight people attend each meeting.

The group members are dedicated to helping each other deal with how their lives have changed, how they are coping with living alone, learning how to take care of themselves, balancing their family life, and being responsible for their finances, the upkeep of their home, and safety.

They also discuss their spouse's current condition, attempt to understand Alzheimers and dementia, and provide support for spouses who are struggling with a husband's loss of cognition.

Other subjects have included the cost of long-term care, Medicare and Medicaid benefits and other cost of care issues.

Discussions such as being alone on the holidays, families, loneliness, emotions, and taking care of themselves are also important issues they are addressing.

The spousal support group provides a time and a place for spouses to know that they are not alone and that there are other people going through the same things they are.

An added benefit for the group are the friendships being formed that are carrying over from the meetings, with many of the group getting together to enjoy activities outside of the Spokane Veterans Home.

If you or someone you know would like additional information about the Spokane Veterans Home Spousal Support Group, call 509-344-5770.

Washington State Veterans Homes

Associate Superintendent Selected for Orting



David J. DeVore has been selected to serve as Associate Superintendent at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting, effective July 21, 2004.

He served for 27 years in the U.S. Navy, starting as a Hospital Corpsman with specialty training as a laboratory technician, managing laboratories around the world. His last 12 years of service were spent in Submarine Medicine, with his last assignment aboard the USS Frank Cable, where he managed the delivery of health care to a crew of 1100 men and women home ported in Guam.

After retiring in July 1998, DeVore spent 2 ½ years in private long term care managing medical records, as well as other aspects of nursing home operations.

Before coming to the Soldiers Home, DeVore was the health care manager for the Washington Correction Center for Women in Gig Harbor, WA., providing health care to more than 900 inmates, as well as the oversight of medical and clerical staff.

DeVore, the son of a Navy veteran, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from George Washington University.



Fort Lewis Singles Club donates TV audio head sets, shavers, and waffle irons for our Breakfast Club... over \$400 worth of goods were donated to the WA Soldiers Home. Several residents were on hand to extend their thanks and appreciation to the group.

Spokane Veterans Home



Call to
Reserve a
Bed

Owned and operated by the State of Washington, the Spokane Veterans Home is a 100-bed skilled nursing facility serving Eastern Washington veterans and their spouses.

- ★ Medicaid/Medicare Certified
- ★ Physician on staff or private physician can follow you
- ★ Daily rate includes pharmaceuticals & most other services
- ★ Partnerships with local hospitals and the Spokane VA Medical Center
- ★ Medicaid resident may retain \$160 Monthly Personal Needs Allowance
- ★ Transportation to medical appointments and outings

**Call (509) 344-5770 or
1-877-VETS-R-US**

Street Talk

With the WA Soldiers Home Residents

What do you like about Fall?



"I don't like the Fall. I want Spring all year long. I do like football though."

--Don Pellegrini, Korean War Air Force Veteran



"I like the Fall because it tells me Winter is coming and I love the snow. I skied alot at Mt. Hood."

--Douglas C. Brown, Vietnam Army Veteran



"I like the leaves and frost in the morning."

--Neil Cole, Vietnam Army Veteran



"The colorful leaves, it reminds me of when I was a boy growing up on our farm near Yakima."

--Harold Moore, Vietnam Army Veteran



"I like the Fall because it tells me Christmas and my birthday are coming."

--Greg Heiden, Vietnam Era Army Veteran

Master Plan Construction Project Moves Along

Construction Team

◆ **Relocation & Removal of Temporary Buildings:** Mortenson has moved the construction trailers to a site behind the carpenter shop. This move was necessary to make room for the storm water and sewer lines that will be placed in the area the trailers used to occupy.

As the construction project comes closer to completion, the temporary activities buildings will need to be removed. This move will likely take place in October and will mean that recreation and activities will be provided in alternate areas. The plan is to move Activities into the current Game Room area, necessitating the closure of the Snack Bar and store. Space is being evaluated to determine if there are any other options for relocation of these services or a method to provide modified services to meet resident wishes.

◆ **Buildings 6-7:** A series of meetings was held with residents and staff in July to discuss the future of Buildings 6-7. These were identified in the Master Plan as “functionally obsolete” and slated for demolition following completion of the new facility. Residents currently living in those buildings will have the opportunity to move into renovated and more spacious rooms in Building 10 and some will be offered rooms in the new facility.

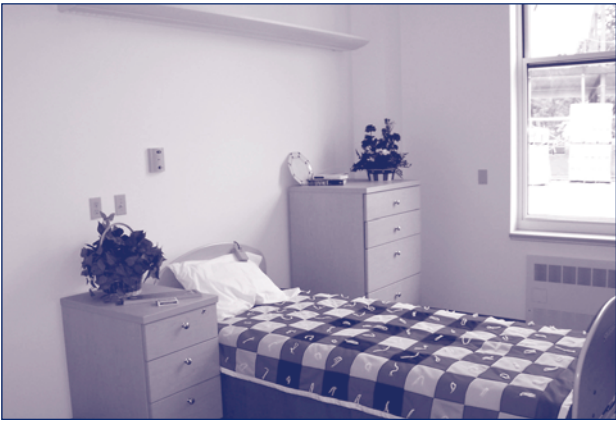
Discussions will continue with residents and staff as the plans for moving and demolition are developed.

◆ **Room “Mock-Ups”:** Two rooms in Building “C” – a single room and a double room – have been painted and furnished to offer residents, staff and community members a first glimpse into the future of the Veterans Home!

Complete with beds, dressers and window shades, the rooms were also giving the finishing touches of bedspreads, pictures and flowers in anticipation of residents touring the rooms. A State Department of Health and DSHS construction review team were on-site August 5h to view these rooms and provide input. Following this inspection, the rooms are now available for community members to tour. Tours must be scheduled in advance, as the rooms are in an active construction zone. Tours will also require safety vests, safety glasses and hardhats and be limited in size for safety. Sensible shoes are also required in the construction zone. Please call (360) 895-4700 for more information.

◆ **Getting Involved:** Now is an exciting time in our Homes' History! If you would like to get your service/civic organization involved, make arrangements for them to visit. Or, you can have them contribute through a special donation account, to purchase courtyard furniture that will allow veterans to enjoy the great outdoors - in their own backyard!

For more information call 360-895-4700.



Mock-up Rooms



Buildings 6 & 7



What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

For more information on Veterans Day – including the VA's 2004 Teacher's Guide – visit <http://www1.va.gov/vetsday/>

Coming Events

Sept. 28, 2004 - 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Veterans Appreciation Day
Central Washington State Fair
Yakima, WA
Lonnie James - 509-457-2790

Sept. 30, 2004 - 9:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Pacific Northwest Autumn Stand Down 2004
People's Community Center
1404 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Tacoma, WA
Mark Mascho 253-798-7449

October 30, 2004 - 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Veterans Information and Assistance Fair
Yakima National Guard Armory
Yakima, WA
Lonnie James 509-457-2790

VETERANS HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH - STATE OF WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 2004

Nov 5, 2004
Job Fair
AMVETS Post #1
5717 So Tyler
Tacoma WA
Sal Cantu 253-593-7361
Patric Hecker 253-593-7364

Veterans Day Events

November 6, 2004 - 9:00 am
Auburn Veterans Day Wreathlaying
Veterans Section of
Mountain View Cemetery
2020 Mountain View Dr.
Auburn, WA
253-931-3028

November 6, 2004 - 11:00 am
Auburn Veterans Day Parade
Downtown Auburn along Main Street
253-931-3028

November 11, 2004 - 11:00 am
Tahoma National Cemetery
18600 SE 240th St.
Kent, WA
425-413-9614

November 11, 2004 - 2:00 pm
Washington Soldiers Home
Chilson Hall
1301 Orting/Kapowsin Hwy
Orting, WA
Lynn Zemke 360-893-4511

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7, 2004

We're Looking for Veterans Day Events in Washington State.
To have your Veterans Day event posted on the WDVA Public Events Calendar, call 1-800-562-0132 or email Colleen@dva.wa.gov or Miriam@dva.wa.gov

DAV Vans Available to Any Organization Ready to Help Veterans



DAV Van for Am Legion Post 43

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Network has provided thousands of veterans nationwide with a way to get to their local VA Medical Center (VAMC) to receive healthcare, at no charge to the veterans.

But, many of Washington’s veterans live in rural parts of the state that aren’t on a current DAV route, so because of the high cost of transportation or the distance required to travel to one of the VA Medical Centers available to them, they have not been able to access their healthcare benefits.

That is no longer true for veterans in Stanwood and Sedro Woolley.

Thanks to the persistence of two American Legion (AL) service officers who were frustrated about the inability to get veterans in these service areas to the VAMC in Seattle, it was discovered that these DAV vans can be operated by any organization that is interested in helping veterans get to the closest VAMC!

Joy Finley, service officer for AL post 92 in Stanwood and Gary Koski, service officer for AL post 43 in Sedro Woolley, first contacted Jerry Pfannenstiel, a Veterans Community Services Coordinator with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Pfannenstiel directed them to the DAV Transportation Director for the state, Bob Barber.

What they learned is that any organization that wishes to transport veterans to the regional VAMC, on a recurring basis, can obtain a DAV van.

Barber met with members of the two posts to explain the process for obtaining a DAV van, as well as the benefits and rules involved in the ownership and operation of these vehicles.

1. The initial cost for each organization is approximately \$10,000 - \$11,000, with the balance of the vehicle cost being paid by the DAV.
2. When the paperwork and purchase of the van is complete, DAV pays for a representative from the purchasing organization to travel to Cincinnati, Ohio to take possession of the new van and drive it back to Washington.
3. Once the van is in operation, the regional VAMC will assume the annual costs of licensing and insuring the van, as well as maintenance and fuel.
4. The requirements – besides the initial \$10,000-\$11,000 – are:
 - Vans must be traded in once they have reached 150,000 miles.
 - The service organization must have several dependable volunteer drivers.
 - The service organization must have a scheduler or dispatcher.

The AL posts in Stanwood and Sedro-Woolley approached the fundraising for their vans in different ways:

Post 92, under the command of Mark Carlson, voted to use profit from their gambling proceeds to purchase their DAV van.

Post 43, under the command of Jerry LaDent, raised the funds by getting donations from the business community. When the new van arrived, Koski wanted to



DAV Van for Am Legion Post 92

show his appreciation to all those who donated, so he had all the sponsors names put on both sides of the van.

“The purchase of our van is providing a great service to the veterans in this area,” said Bob Westphal, a past member and current volunteer on the Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, and a past commander and life member of AL Post 92.

“We’re now able to give our veterans the ability to use their healthcare benefits at the VAMC in Seattle, and we’re demonstrating to the community that we’re taking care of business,” said Westphal. “ We picked up our van in June and word-of-mouth has already brought the operation to three days a week and we’ll soon need to run five days a week, based on the interest.

“This is a partnership between the Federal VA, the DAV and the individual post that is working.”

If you or your organization would like additional information on this program, contact:

- Bob Barber at 360-279-2981
- Jerry Pfannenstiel at 360-629-8028
- Bob Westphal at 360-387-8352
- Post 92 at 260-629-8021 or
- Post 43 at 360-855-2225

Ride For Troops Raises \$30,000

On July 11, 2004, the Ride and Rally for the Troops had motorcycles stretched down 20 miles of I-5 between Fife and the Mounts Rd exit just south of Ft. Lewis, going in both directions.

Amidst the roar of engines and the sea of black leather, the American flag flew from the majority of bikes, as riders rode to show their support of the Task Force Olympia Stryker Brigade and their families.

Ride for Troops organizers Christine and Lynn Dixon outdid themselves. Hoping to reach a goal of 1,000 bikes for the ride, these proud parents of children serving in the military were astounded when close to 2000 motorcycles showed up! In addition, more than 500 non-riders participated by rallying at the Camp Murray overpass before traveling to Fife to join the crowd for BBQ, music and a specially broadcast phone call from General Carter Ham in Iraq.

Sponsored by Destination Harley-Davidson of Fife, the ride raised about \$30,000 for the families of the Ft. Lewis based troops.

To see additional photos from the Rally, go to www.ridefortroops.com



The Dixons’ are hard at work preparing for “Santas on Motorcycles”, a benefit to make Christmas special for the children whose parent(s) are serving with the 81st National Guard Brigade from Camp Murray. New toys, kids clothing, treats, wrapping paper and ribbon are now being collected, and volunteers will wrap and deliver the gifts via volunteer “Santas on Motorcycles”. If you would like to help, drop off your donations at Destination Harley-Davidson in Fife, Pacific Hwy East (253) 922-3700, or call the Dixons’ at (206) 241-5575.



DOD will preserve veterans' personnel files

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. government officials have decided to preserve the personnel files of every military member since 1885, and to allow public access to such records 62 years after official discharge or separation.

An agreement designating these files as "permanent records" was signed Thursday by Archivist of the United States John Carlin and David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The National Archives and Records Administration will maintain the records "forever," according to Greg Pomicter, assistant for operations in the NARA's Office of Regional Records Services.

Protecting personnel files is crucial because they contain the legal documents veterans and their families need in order to claim entitlements that may have accrued from military service, Pomicter said in a Monday telephone interview from NARA's Suitland, Md., headquarters.

Before the agreement was signed, the U.S. government would release only basic information, such as the dates of service. Only the member himself, if alive, or next-of-kin, if the member was dead, had access to the entire file, Pomicter said.

Under the new policy, the public will have access to records 62 years after a servicemember's official discharge or separation — "a wealth of information" that will appeal to a variety of individuals, Pomicter said.

After a six-month survey of records requests, archivists found that the nature of requests moved from administrative to historical between 56 years and 62 years after the servicemember's separation, and went with the higher number to be safe.

People searching for genealogical data will find that the records "give you a tremendous amount of family history," Pomicter said.

Personnel files contain medical information, performance reports and disciplinary actions, as well as birth, marriage and death records, and adoption records and visas for family history purposes.

Academics and other researchers, meanwhile, will be able to use the records to reconstruct all sorts of information, such as the demographic composition of a specific military unit and how it has changed over time, Pomicter said.

But if a servicemember is still alive after 62 years, the Privacy Act of 1974 allows NAR officials to "redact," or black out, certain information, such as Social Security numbers, Pomicter said.

"If we have any indication that person is alive, we'll be very careful what's released ... to ensure that there's no unwarranted invasion of a person's privacy," Pomicter said.

It will take at least a decade for government archivists to transfer all 56 million eligible records to the public domain, however.

That's because before 1960, DOD did not necessarily file its personnel records by date of discharge, requiring archivists to sort through the jackets one-by-one to discern whether they meet the 62-year age requirement, Pomicter said.

The first major block of files — nearly 1 million personnel records for sailors and Marines that date back to World War I — will be released this fall, Pomicter said.

To learn how to search records maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration including records that have been archived electronically, go to: www.archives.gov.

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Law assures rights for five years, and protects status, pay, pensions

A 1994 law strengthened job protections for National Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty. Here are major provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

- While on active duty, guardsmen and reservists retain re-employment rights for five years, plus one more year if the absence is for the government's convenience. This protects virtually all active guardsmen and reservists.

- Returning service members must be re-employed in the job they would have attained had they remained at work, with the same seniority, status and pay.

- If the original job no longer exists, the service member must be offered an equivalent position.

- Employers must make reasonable efforts for returning service members to refresh or upgrade skills for re-employment.

- Employers must make reasonable efforts to accommodate disabled veterans.

- Troops on military duty for more than 30 days may elect to continue employer-sponsored health care for up to 18 months, although they might be required to pay up to 102 percent of the premium. For service of less than 31 days, coverage is provided as if the service member had remained employed.

- Pensions are protected.

- For service time between 31 and 180 days, service members apply for re-employment within 14 days of release, or within 90 days for more than 180 days.

- The law is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. The toll-free number for help is 1-866-487-2365.

SOURCE U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



VA Establishes New Laser Eye Surgery Policies

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced a new policy providing a single, uniform standard of care throughout the Department for performing laser eye surgery procedures.

"Our Department has no higher priority than to ensure veterans receive the highest possible quality health care at all of our facilities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This new policy will provide an additional level of safety for our patients who come to us for eye care."

VA's new policy states that all therapeutic laser eye surgeries at VA facilities will be performed under the supervision of an ophthalmologist in a manner consistent with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards.

Only optometrists who are fully trained and appropriately licensed will be granted clinical privileges by the department to perform therapeutic laser eye surgery under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

Presently, Oklahoma is the only state that licenses optometrists to perform laser surgery. VA will continue to evaluate and consider state and national standards of practice as it sets its own standard of care.

VA currently operates 158 hospitals, 132 nursing homes, 42 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and 854 outpatient clinics. The new policy will take effect immediately at all facilities with the capability to perform laser eye surgeries.

SOURCE U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Web Site: <http://www.va.gov>



Web Sites Provide Financial Readiness Information to Military, Retirees and Families

Two web sites offer help on financial issues facing the diverse money and credit issues facing today's service members and consumers in general.

Created in partnership with the Department of Defense to highlight specific challenges affecting those serving in the armed forces and their families, www.militarymoney.com includes the Military Money Minute, a 60 second daily spot on the Armed Forces Radio Network, covering issues from military tax breaks to financial scams and more.

To help promote financial literacy locally, www.consumer.gov/ncpw offers an outreach toolkit. Numerous partners, to include the FTC, the Better Business Bureau, AARP and NAAG, have pooled their materials on credit, money management, saving and investing, home ownership, insurance and retirement for this site.

SOURCE U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Update on Survivors Benefits of Military Personnel Involved in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a variety of programs to assist the survivors of military personnel who die on active duty.

Summary of Benefits

Survivors receive certain payments or benefits regardless of whether the in-service death is due to combat, accident or disease, including:

- Burial benefits for the deceased service member, which include a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space, perpetual care of the grave at no cost to the family, a government headstone or marker, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation at the monthly rate of \$967 for a surviving spouse or more if there are dependent children.
- Life insurance, which most military members carry at the highest level, \$250,000.

More information about how VA services apply in individual cases is available from veterans services representatives at 800-827-1000.

Casualty Assistance Program

VA has a Casualty Assistance Program to give personal attention to surviving family members after in-service deaths, and to help them with benefit information and applications. A casualty assistance officer is designated at each of VA's 57 regional offices. These VA officers work closely with military casualty officers to ensure timely assistance is available to beneficiaries.

Reservists and National Guard Eligibility

When a member of the Reserves or National Guard dies while federally activated or on inactive duty for training, the death is considered service-connected for VA death benefits. Activation of a National Guard unit by a governor alone in support of current security operations does not qualify unit members for these VA benefits, except life insurance.

Monthly Payments for Spouse and Children

When a service member dies while on active duty, the death is considered service-connected unless it was due to willful misconduct. VA pays at least \$967 a month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to surviving spouses. In most cases, survivors' claims are processed within 48 hours.

In some cases VA can pay more than \$967 a month, such as a \$241 benefit for each dependent child who is unmarried and under age 18 or up to age 23 if studying at a VA-approved school. Payments are increased if the surviving spouse is housebound or needs a home aide. The basic rate for survivors is adjusted annually and payments continue generally until the death or remarriage of the spouse before age 57. Remarriage after age 57 does not affect benefits. Additional information about benefits for family members, to include low-income parents of the veteran, is available at

Life Insurance

Most service members and reservists take VA's life insurance coverage, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, though a few decline coverage. Most choose coverage at the highest levels and their designated beneficiary receives a payment of \$250,000. VA has paid every claim related to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom within 48 hours of receiving the necessary paperwork. VA also offers beneficiaries free, personalized financial planning through a financial services company. More information is available at www.insurance.va.gov

Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Members of the armed forces and veterans, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in any of VA's national cemeteries with available space. There currently are 120 national cemeteries across the nation and 83 have available grave space. More information is available at www.cem.va.gov

Burial in a Non-VA Cemetery

Deaths of active-duty members are not covered by VA's financial burial allowance benefits, since the military services assist survivors with funeral expenses and the cost of burial in private cemeteries. If a family wishes to arrange burial in a non-VA cemetery, VA will provide a headstone or marker for the grave.

Burial in a State Veterans Cemetery

Although not a benefit provided by VA, burial in a state veterans cemetery is an option available in many states for those who die on active duty. Some states have residency requirements and may impose additional limitations.

Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors. This arrangement typically is made by the funeral director. At least two uniformed service members fold and present the flag and play "Taps" by a recording or a bugler. Additional information about funeral honors is available at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

Military Burial Flags

In the case of in-service deaths, the Defense Department provides a U.S. flag to drape the casket or to be presented at a memorial service. After the service, the flag is given to the next of kin.

Health Care

Health care benefits for the survivors of service members killed in action in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom are provided by the military. For more information, see <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>

Educational Assistance

When an active-duty service member dies, VA's Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program generally provides up to 45 months of education benefits to the un-remarried surviving spouse for 10 years, or for children aged 18 to 26. Currently the rate is \$788 a month for full-time attendance, with lesser amounts for part-time education. This benefit may be used to pursue secondary school programs; associate, bachelor or graduate degrees; technical or vocational training; apprenticeships; and other types of training, including work-study programs. More information is available at www.gibill.va.gov/education/C35pam.htm

Refund of Service Member's Unused GI Bill Contribution

If the deceased service member had contributed to the Montgomery GI Bill education program, the designated life insurance beneficiary or surviving spouse is entitled to a refund of the money that was collected through payroll deduction but was not awarded in education benefits during the service member's lifetime. Most active-duty military members participate in this educational benefit program, which deducts \$1,200 from their pay at \$100 monthly during their first year of service.

Home Loans

Surviving spouses of military members may be eligible for a VA-guaranteed home loan from a private lender. The loan may be used to purchase, construct or improve a home, to refinance an existing mortgage or for certain other purposes. As with the program for veterans, VA guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate. Except for manufactured homes and other select cases, the surviving spouse may obtain a no-downpayment loan if the lender agrees.

Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

The service member's next of kin receives a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Additional certificates are available for other loved ones upon request to VA. The gold embossed parchment-style paper is inscribed with the service member's name and bears the president's signature. It expresses the nation's gratitude for the deceased person's military service.

SOURCE U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Hats
Off

Hats Off to Scout Troop 14 of Elma

Eagle Scouts
Provide Elma with
Lasting Veterans Tribute

Scout Troop 14 of Elma will soon dedicate a Memorial to Military Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for America’s freedom.

What started as 17 year-old Chase Meister’s Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project soon involved five other young men working for the same goal, as the concept of how to honor veterans in the Elma area who had died for their country during WWI to the present grew.

The first area chosen for the memorial was turned down by the City Council and the current approved site demanded more than one person participate in order to do a proper job, so as the project and vision grew, the number of Scouts involved grew also.

In October, 2003, the Elma City Council approved building the Memorial on what is known by locals as Triangle Park, with the stipulation that it would be named “Edward Silas Morton, Jr. Memorial Park” to commemorate the young man whose family gave the land to the city after he died in a tragic accident in the area during the mid-fifties.

In late February, 2004, the young men provided finalized plans to the City Council, and began work on the memorial in March.



Inscription on granite stone:
“This monument honors those who, at the call of their country left all that was dear to them, endured hardships, faced danger, and by the path of duty sacrificed their life so others may live in freedom.
Memories may fade, but these names will never be forgotten.”

The work was divided between each of them, allowing them to finalize their portion of the Memorial prior to their 18th birthdays, a requirement of the Eagle Scout process.

Isaac Brumbaugh was in charge of the sprinkler systems; Elliot Loucks was responsible for the retaining wall; Adam Zepp handled landscaping, the removal of a large tree, the building of a central raised

flower bed and the electrical; Miles Zepp procured the three flag poles and the stones underneath; Michael Gay took care of the walkway from the street to the memorial and the benches; and Chase Meister took on the daunting task of researching the names of the area’s KIA since WWI, procuring a granite stone and having the names engraved. And, they all worked together to coordinate the project and assist each other.

A donation fund is set-up at Venture Bank in Elma to receive monetary donations to pay for all the expenses of the Memorial not covered by donations of material and skilled labor, raising nearly \$5,000 to date.

Even though the engraving of names is scheduled for Sept. 7, Meister has planned for adding additional names that may have been missed, and asks that if you know of any Elma/McCleary area veterans that died in combat, to please give him a call at 360-482-2399.

When asked why he chose to honor Veterans as his Eagle scout Leadership Service Project, Meister said, “I noticed that all the surrounding towns have honored Veterans with a Memorial and Elma didn’t have one, so I decided to change that.

“They fought for my freedom.”

A dedication date is hoped for before Veterans Day, 2004, and will be posted on the Public Events page at www.dva.wa.gov



National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action
Recognition Day

September 14, 2004 “We pause to honor the service and sacrifice of American veterans whose enduring faith in country, family and comrades in arms gave them a rare courage that continues to inspire our nation.

To honor their courage we fly the black and white flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, over the White House, the Capital, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs.

Today the glory and courage of our POW/MIAs cannot be diminished by time.

Today we recognize them for their service and their sacrifice. We thank them for their courage. We recommit ourselves, as the instrument of government responsible for helping America keep its promise to Veterans that every American former POW will receive not only the medical care they need but also the respect and dignity they deserve.”

USDVA 2004 POW/MIA National Recognition Day Remembrance

POW/MIA Web Sites of Interest

- www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/ Former POWs and Their Survivors – Veterans Benefits and Services
- www.vba.va.gov/ro/central/indy/ Indianapolis VA Regional Office (Use search engine to find POW Information)
- www.dtic.mil/dpmo/ Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
- www.axpow.org/ The American Ex-Prisoners of War
- <http://members.aol.com/usaheroes/warlib26.htm> POW/MIA Resource Guide
- www.pow-miafamilies.org/ Families of MIA/POW Southeast Asia



VETERAN & MILITARY SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE
SERIES SIGNATURE SHEET

NAME	SIGNATURE	NO. OF SETS
MAILING ADDRESS		BRANCH OF SERVICE
E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE)		PHONE NO.

Mail to: WDVA * PO Box 41150 * Olympia, WA 98504